

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7617
INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 1650

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ECON, SHUM, EC, SNAR
SUBJECT: DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ARELLANO MEETING WITH GOE
ECONOMIC DECISION-MAKERS

REF: QUITO 1651

IN A MEETING ARRANGED BY THE CHARGE BETWEEN VISITING DEPUTY
ASSISTANT SECRETARY ARELLANO AND SELECTED GOE ECONOMIC
DECISION-MAKERS--AMB OLMEDO MONTEVERDE, DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC
AFFAIRS, FOREIGN MINISTRY; JULIO CORREA, ECONOMIC ADVISOR,
FOREIGN MINISTRY; AND ALBERTO QUEVEDO TORO, DIRECTOR, GOE
NATIONAL FINANCE CORP (FORMER AMBASSADOR TO US)--DIALOGUE
ENSUED ON THE FOLLOWING TOPICS:

A) HUMAN RIGHTS: AMBASSADOR QUEVEDO QUESTIONED WHETHER THE
CARTER ADMINISTRATION WOULD LONG CONTINUE TO GIVE HIGH
PRIORITY TO HUMAN RIGHTS THEMES. ARELLANO ASSURED THEM
THE PRIORITY FOR THIS WOULD REMAIN THROUGHOUT THE
TENURE OF THE ADMINISTRATION AND BEYOND AS IT REFLECTED
BASIC US VALUES. QUEVEDO SAID THE POLICY IS GENERALLY
PRAISE-WORTHY, BUT THAT THE INTRUSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS
CRITERIA INTO THE LENDING POLICIES OF THE USG VIA
IFI'S PERVERTS THE PURPOSE OF IFI'S, AND IN PRACTICE
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TENDS TO DISCRIMINATE AGAINST LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES
(SINCE THE MAIN NON-LATIN OFFENDERS, SUCH AS IRAN
AND SOUTH KOREA, TEND TO BE EXEMPTED).
(COMMENT: QUEVEDO HAS LONG BEEN ESPOUSING THIS LINE
IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFFS AND OTHERS, BUT IS
INCREASINGLY A LONE VOICE AS CRITIC. SEE THE
ECUADOREAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S COMMENTS ON THIS

SUBJECT IN REFTEL.)

B) TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER: ARELLANO ASKED FOR THE ECUADOR-EANS' VIEWS REGARDING THE SCHEDULED 1979 UN CONFERENCE ON TECHNOLOGY. MONTEVERDE STATED THAT THE GOE ATTACHES HIGH IMPORTANCE TO THIS, AND PLANS TO SEND A WELL-QUALIFIED DELEGATION. CORREA SAID THE CONFERENCE UNDOUBTEDLY WILL BE VERY USEFUL, BUT THAT IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER COULD AND SHOULD BE EFFECTED BY THE PRIVATE COMPANIES WHO CREATE AND MARKET TECHNOLOGY. HE SUGGESTED THAT LDC'S NEED ASSISTANCE IN PREPARING THEMSELVES TO NEGOTIATE AGREEMENTS IN THIS AREA.

C) NARCOTICS: ALRELLANO COMMENTED ON THE IMPORTANCE OF GOE COOPERATION WITH THE USG TO BATTLE DRUG-TRAFFICKING, AND STRESSED THAT THE PROBLEMS ARE NO LONGER CONFINED TO THE US. THE CHARGE MENTIONED THE RECENT STUDY BY A US EXPERT OF THE EXTENT OF DRUG USE IN QUITO AND GUAYAQUIL, SHOWING THAT OVER 10 PERCENT OF HIGH-SCHOOL STUDENTS IN THOSE PRINCIPAL CITIES ARE EITHER REGULAR USERS OR HAVE EXPERIMENTED WITH DRUGS. THE FIGURE SURPRISED THE ECUADOREANS; CORREA SAID HE HAD PREVIOUSLY UNDERSTOOD THE FIGURE WAS UNDER 3 PERCENT. QUEVEDO SAID THERE IS GROWING AWARENESS, AT LEAST AMONG THE LITERATE ECUADOREAN

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PUBLIC, THAT A PROBLEM ALREADY EXISTS AND IS GROWING, AND THE GOE ITSELF SHOWS SIGNS OF BEGINNING TO GEAR UP TO TACKLE THE PROBLEM.

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